

# BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

May 25, 2016

Town Hall

Selectman Robert J. Fleming; Selectman Gary Daugherty; Town  
Manager, Blythe C. Robinson; Executive Assistant, Sandra Hakala

The meeting called to order at 6:00pm by Selectman Fleming at which time he outlined the meeting discussion guidelines to ensure all attendees would have an opportunity to make comment on the 27-mile extension of the Algonquin Pipeline, proposed by Spectra Energy - called the West Boylston Lateral - which would pass through Milford, Upton, Grafton, Sutton, Shrewsbury, Boylston and West Boylston.

Lori Woodin a resident introduced two lobbyists with 350MASS whose intent is to make it clear that Massachusetts residents want sustainable energy, not fossil fuel energy, and care about our environment, our health, and the planet. After presenting a power point presentation many residents made comment on the proposed Algonquin Pipeline.

Many residents mirrored the posture of 350MASS; New England does not need new natural gas pipelines, now or in the future; would place New England on a trajectory of “failure to meet the region’s climate change goals” and would “increase GHG emissions-reduction compliance costs” over the long-run; and there are cleaner and lower cost options available.

Many expressed frustration thinking they would be paying for the \$3 billion project through surcharges on their electricity bill for a project that would only be beneficial to the energy companies. Resident Ellen Gould sympathized with abutters near the pipeline arguing they would get hurt twice; once when the land is taken, and again when they still have to pay taxes on it. An abutter to the proposed project, Pam Kutzer, is concerned about the safety of the pipeline, citing recent pipeline explosions.

Resident Meredith Rice thought the project was unnecessary when energy companies can meet demands by fixing leaks in current pipelines citing Heetma.org who indicates that Massachusetts has more than 20,000 natural gas leaks, 16 of which are in Upton.

Other concerns expressed included:

- The possibility of eminent domain takings of their land, reduced property values and the inability to fully utilize their property as they wish if an easement is required on their property.
- The true purpose of this project is to increase the amount of fracking of gas in other areas of the country, and then ship it through this pipeline to locations where it can be shipped overseas to other markets.
- Affects to Peppercorn Hill Conservation Area and State Forest, some of which was bought using State grants and there may be adverse financial impact to the Town if an easement or taking affects these properties.

- Concern over the public safety and health effects of a gas pipeline and requested assurances that compensation would be forthcoming to pay for emergency response to issues with the pipeline for the Town, and to cover individual health issues that might arise.

- Concerns about gas leakage and its effect on the water sources were also expressed.

Selectman Fleming said the Board would comprise a letter with the resident's concerns to be sent to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

**ADJOURN MEETING**

***Motion #1:*** At 7:30pm motion was made by Selectman Daugherty to adjourn the regular meeting.

Second: Selectmen Fleming, Majority action

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hakala

Executive Assistant